



SUPERFUND COMMUNITY UPDATE

Lawrence Aviation Industries Superfund Site

Port Jefferson Station, New York

June 2004

F O R M O R E INFORMATION...

Public Participation

Public participation is essential to the success of EPA's Superfund program. If you have any questions regarding cleanup activities at the Site, please contact Salvatore Badalamenti, Remedial Project Manager, at (212) 637-3314, or Cecilia Echols, EPA's Community Involvement Coordinator, at (212) 637-3678 or 1-800-346-5009.

Regional Public Liaison

EPA Region 2 has designated a Regional Public Liaison for you to call, should you have concerns or complaints about the Superfund program. Please call (888) 283-7626.

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)

A representative of ATSDR is available to answer health-related questions. Please call Arthur Block, ATSDR Senior Regional Representative, at (212) 637-4307.

Superfund

For information on the Superfund process, please visit EPA's website at: www.epa.gov/superfund

The site contains information on the various tools and resources available to community groups, as well as fact sheets about other sites.

Drinking Water Information

For information on safe drinking water levels and the chemicals which EPA limits in drinking water, please visit:

www.epa.gov/OGWDW/mcl.html

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has begun the field data collection phase of the remedial investigation/feasibility study (RI/FS) at the Lawrence Aviation Industries (LAI) Superfund Site (the Site). The purpose of the remedial investigation (RI) is to collect sufficient data to evaluate the nature and extent of contamination at the Site. The goal of the feasibility study (FS) is to evaluate possible cleanup actions. Field data collection will begin in mid-June and will continue into the fall of 2004.

The field data collection program at the LAI Site involves installing and sampling monitoring wells and collecting of soil samples. The attached figure shows the planned locations for each of the ten wells to be installed at or near the Site. The locations have been carefully selected to both determine the extent of groundwater contamination, and to minimize the temporary construction impacts on the community. Each well will take 4-5 days to install. Work hours will be limited to between 7:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. and all drilling will occur between June 14 and July 30. Residents in the immediate vicinity of well construction may incur temporary noise and traffic impacts during this time. Although traffic to and from the drilling locations will be minimal, drilling equipment may partially block roadways for short periods. EPA will work with the local authorities to ensure minimum interruptions to the community. No dust or odor impacts are anticipated.

Site Description and History

The Lawrence Aviation Industries Superfund Site is located in the Village of Port Jefferson Station, Town of Brookhaven, Suffolk County, New York. The Site is surrounded by residential areas and a few commercial properties. The Port Jefferson Harbor, an outlet to the Long Island Sound, lies approximately 1 mile to the north. Groundwater in the vicinity of the Site flows in a northerly direction, toward the Port Jefferson Harbor/Long Island Sound. Drinking water comes from an underground source of water known as the Upper Glacial/Magothy aquifer.

Founded at its present location in 1959, LAI was a manufacturer of titanium sheeting for the aeronautics industry. Past disposal practices and the presence of leaking drums at LAI resulted in numerous violations cited by both the Suffolk County Department of Health Services (SCDHS) and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC). In 1980 and 1981, SCDHS required LAI to remove numerous drums of waste materials from the Site. Reportedly, many of these waste materials were spilled during the removal process. The drums contained the chemicals trichloroethylene and tetrachloroethylene, as well as waste acids (hydrofluoric acid and nitric acid), waste sludges containing acid, salt wastes, hydraulic oils, and other plant wastes.

In 1987, the NYSDEC requested that EPA perform an emergency cleanup in Port Jefferson. This action was implemented to address private wells that were contaminated with chlorinated organic solvents. EPA's work included extending a Suffolk County Water Authority (SCWA) waterline and connecting several homes with private wells to municipal water.

In 1991, a second drum removal was performed by LAI, with the NYSDEC overseeing the work. In March 1992, the Site was listed on the New York State Registry of Inactive Hazardous Waste Disposal Site as a "Class 2" site. Class 2 sites are those that present a significant threat to human health and the environment and that require action. In 1997, the project was referred to the New York State Superfund program once Lawrence Aviation Industries after ongoing negotiations failed to produce a work plan to the NYSDEC's satisfaction.

The NYSDEC began field activities for its own RI/FS in the fall of 1997. Previous sampling completed by SCDHS identified 11 private wells directly down gradient from the LAI Site on or near Sheep Pasture Road, either being impacted or threatened by contamination from the Site. In response, the New York State Department of Health requested, and the NYSDEC approved, Environmental Quality Bond Act funding for waterline extensions and connection of private wells to the SCWA system. These water main extensions and connections to the SCWA system were installed between 1997 and 1998.

Legal issues associated with gaining Site access slowed progress with respect to completing the State-funded remedial investigation. While the NYSDEC was attempting to resolve the access situation, the State was able to accomplish the following: (1) work with EPA to place the Site on the National Priorities List (see below); (2) complete the preliminary RI Report identifying Lawrence Aviation as a source of groundwater contamination. This report is now on file at the Information Repositories for the Site (see below); and (3) connect private wells threatened by the Site to municipal water as described above.

Current Activities

The EPA has finalized its initial screening activities and the information collected was used to determine the locations for well installation and soil sample collection. The RI will use this information to establish cleanup objectives for the Site.

These cleanup objectives will in turn be used to evaluate cleanup strategies that will prevent potential exposure to human health and the environment from contamination related to the LAI Site.

The National Priorities List (NPL)

The NPL is a published list of hazardous waste sites in the country that are eligible for extensive, long-term cleanup action under the Superfund program. The LAI Site was formally placed on the NPL in February 2000.

Public Meetings

Once all of the RI/FS information has been collected and evaluated, EPA will present its findings, as well as a proposal for cleaning up the Site, to the community in a public meeting. The public meeting will consist of a formal presentation, as well as a question and answer period.

Information Repository

Site documents are available for review and copying at:

Port Jefferson Free Public Library
100 Thompson Street
Port Jefferson, NY 11777
and
Comesewogue Library
170 Terryville Road
Port Jefferson Station, NY 11776